Conference on Disarmament

24 June 2014

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Note verbale dated 20 May 2014 from the Delegation of the United States of America to the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Acting Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the fact sheet on "transparency in the United States Nuclear Weapons Stockpile" dated 29 April 2014

The Delegation of the United States of America to the Conference on Disarmament presents its compliments to Acting Secretary-General of the Conference Michael Moeller and has the honour of transmitting to the Secretariat a fact sheet on "transparency in the United States Nuclear Weapons Stockpile," dated 29 April 2014. The United States delegation would appreciate the Secretariat's assistance in issuing and circulating this fact sheet as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

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Fact Sheet
Transparency in the United States Nuclear Weapons Stockpile

The United States is releasing newly declassified information on the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile to update the information released in May 2010. Increasing the transparency of global nuclear stockpiles is important to non-proliferation efforts, including commitments under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and the pursuit of further reductions that cover all nuclear weapons: deployed and non-deployed, strategic and non-strategic.

Stockpile

As of September 2013, the U.S. stockpile of nuclear warheads consisted of 4,804 warheads. This number represents an 85 percent reduction in the stockpile from its maximum (31,255) at the end of fiscal year 1967, and a 78 percent reduction from its level (22,217) when the Berlin Wall fell in late 1989. The below figure shows the U.S. nuclear stockpile from 1945 through September 30, 2013.

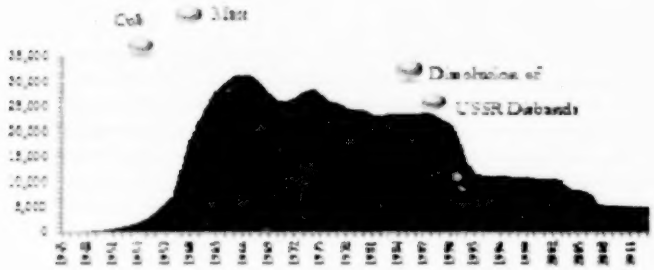
Warhead Dismantlement

From fiscal years 1994 through 2013, the United States dismantled 9,952 nuclear warheads. Since September 30, 2009, the United States has dismantled 1,204 nuclear warheads. Several thousand additional nuclear weapons are currently retired and awaiting dismantlement.

Non-Strategic Nuclear Weapons

The number of U.S. non-strategic nuclear weapons has declined by approximately 90 percent since September 30, 1991.

United States Nuclear Weapons Stockpile, 1945-2014



Includes active and inactive warheads. Several thousand additional nuclear warheads are retired and awaiting dismantlement.

*Stockpile Numbers – End of Fiscal Years 1962-2013**

Data prior to 1962 released by Department of Energy in December 1993

1962	25,540	1988	23,205
1963	28,133	1989	22,217
1964	29,463	1990	21,392
1965	31,139	1991	19,008
1966	31,175	1992	13,708
1967	31,255	1993	11,511
1968	29,561	1994	10,979
1969	27,552	1995	10,904
1970	26,008	1996	11,011
1971	25,830	1997	10,903
1972	26,516	1998	10,732
1973	27,835	1999	10,685
1974	28,537	2000	10,577
1975	27,519	2001	10,526
1976	25,914	2002	10,457
1977	25,542	2003	10,027
1978	24,418	2004	8,570
1979	24,138	2005	8,360
1980	24,104	2006	7,853
1981	23,208	2007	5,709
1982	22,886	2008	5,273
1983	23,305	2009	5,113
1984	23,459	2010	5,066
1985	23,368	2011	4,897
1986	23,317	2012	4,881
1987	23,575	2013	4,804

*Stockpile Numbers – End of Fiscal Years 1962-2013**

Data prior to 1962 released by Department of Energy in December 1993

* Does not include weapons retired and awaiting dismantlement

Department of Energy Weapon Dismantlements (Fiscal Year 1994 – 2013)	
1994	1,369
1995	1,393
1996	1,064
1997	498
1998	1,062
1999	206
2000	158
2001	144
2002	344
2003	222
2004	206
2005	280
2006	253
2007	545
2008	648
2009	356
2010	352
2011	305
2012	308
2013	239
Total Dismantlements	9,952

Definitions

The nuclear stockpile includes both active and inactive warheads. Active warheads include strategic and non-strategic weapons maintained in an operational, ready-for-use configuration, warheads that must be ready for possible deployment within a short timeframe, and logistics spares. They have tritium bottles and other Limited Life Components installed. Inactive warheads are maintained at a depot in a non-operational status, and have their tritium bottles removed.

A retired warhead is removed from its delivery platform, is not functional, and is not considered part of the nuclear stockpile. Weapons awaiting dismantlement constitute a significant fraction of the total warhead population and will increase as the New START Treaty is implemented and as unneeded warheads are retired. A dismantled warhead is a warhead reduced to its component parts.